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Message Text

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EXDIS-HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ANGOLA: SENATOR BARTLETT MEETS WITH MPLA LEADERS

DURING HIS FEBRUARY 1 VISIT TO LUANDA, SENATOR BARTLETT MET WITH MPLA PRIME MINISTER NASCIMENTO, FOREIGN MINISTER EDUARDO, AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER LARA, ALL OF WHOM RULED OUT A COALITION GOVERNMENT AND REAFFIRMED THE "SACRED PRINCIPLE" THAT THERE WILL BE NO FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN ANGOLA. THE LEADERS:

--COMPLAINED ABOUT US RESTRICTIONS ON BOEING AIRCRAFT SALES AND GULF'S PAYMENTS POLICY BUT INDICATED A DESIRE FOR WESTERN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS AND UNTIED AID;

--SPOKE VAGUELY OF A FUTURE "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST"
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GOVERNMENT ON THE YUGOSLAV MODEL AND DENIED THAT

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ANGOLA WOULD EVER BE COMMUNIST;

--STATED THAT THE MPLA AIMS FOR A NONALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY WITH FRIENDLY TIES TO AFRICAN AND SOCIALIST

REGIMES AND A FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 727, 2/2.)

2. ITALY: MORO PREPARES FOR NEW ENCOUNTER WITH PSI

PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE MORO WAS BUSY FEBRUARY 2 SEEKING APPROVAL WITHIN HIS PARTY FOR THE PACKAGE HE WILL PRESENT TO SOCIALIST SECRETARY DEMARTINO, WHOSE PARTY WILL AT THE MOST ABSTAIN ON THE DC PROPOSALS IN THE PARLIAMENT. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY ROME:

--DEMARTINO IS ANXIOUS TO SEE A GOVERNMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE PSI FORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO THAT ITALY AT LEAST CAN COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS FOR CREDIT TO SUPPORT THE LIRA.

--PSI FACTION LEADER MANCINI HAS WARNED THAT EVEN ABSTENTION BY HIS PARTY REQUIRES ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOCIALIST ECONOMIC POSITION AND HAS IMPLICITLY PUT THE DC ON NOTICE THAT THEY MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN THE PSI AND THE REPUBLICANS. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 1724, 2/2.)

3. ICELAND-UK: RETURN OF THE ROYAL NAVY?

AN FCO OFFICIAL HINTED TO EMBASSY LONDON FEBRUARY 2 THAT BRITISH WARSHIPS MAY RETURN TO DISPUTED WATERS BECAUSE UK TRAWLERS WERE ABLE TO CATCH MORE FISH WITH PROTECTION THAN WITHOUT. THE OFFICIAL:

--CLAIMED BRITAIN HAD GONE A LONG WAY TOWARD MEETING ICELANDIC DEMANDS, BUT

--DECLARED THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING ICELAND'S IMPORTANCE TO NATO, THERE WAS A LIMIT TO HOW FAR BRITAIN COULD

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GO. (CONFIDE TIAL) LONDON 1664, 2/2.)

4. THAILAND: KHUKRIT NOT PACKING HIS BAGS

IN A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE FEBRUARY 2, PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT SPOKE OPTIMISTICALLY ABOUT HIS CHANCES OF STAYING IN POWER. KHUKRIT:

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--ASSERTED HE WOULD BEND "BUT NOT BREAK" THE LAW TO ACHIEVE A STABLE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIAL ACTION AND CHAT THAI PARTIES;

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--SPOKE DISPARAGINGLY OF TWO COUP PLOTS SUPPOSEDLY BEING AIMED AGAINST HIM;

--SAID A RESIDUAL AMERICAN TROOP PRESENCE WOULD RECEIVE HIS FULL BACKING;

--THINKS NO DECISIONS OF ANY CONSEQUENCE WILL BE TAKEN AT THE UPCOMING ASEAN SUMMIT.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: KHUKRIT'S OPTIMISM WITH REGARD TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF HIS ACHIEVING A MAJORITY POSITION IN PARLIAMENT APPEARS TO BE UNJUSTIFIED, BUT HE IS CLEARLY DETERMINED TO DO EVERYTHING HE CAN TO OVERCOME THE FACTION-ALISM WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT THE DOWNFALL OF HIS GOVERNMENT. (SECRET) BANGKOK 2194 (EXDIS) AND BANGKOK 2189 (LIMDIS), 2/2.) INGERSOLL

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